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101514Z Dec 04

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006882

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Ankara's reaction softens EU summit draft - Aksam  
Greek Cypriots again threaten to veto EU-Turkey talks -  
Milliyet  
Annan to assign a new Cyprus representative - Sabah  
5,500 US conscripts flee to Canada to escape Iraq war -  
Hurriyet  
US gives 'reluctant' vote of confidence to Annan - Hurriyet  
One billion children suffering around the world - Hurriyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Third EU draft partially amended - Zaman  
Verheugen: Turkey will get what it wants - Zaman  
NATO bids Powell an emotional farewell - Radikal  
Netherlands keeps a close eye on foreigners - Radikal  
US warns Iran, Syria against supporting Iraq resistance --  
Yeni Safak  
Iraqi war veterans down and out in US - Cumhuriyet  
Half of world children struggle with poverty, war, AIDS -  
Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

EU-Turkey on the eve of EU Summit: A draft statement for the December 16-17 European Union summit has been changed for the second time in the face of pressure from Ankara, papers report. Dutch PM Jan Peter Balkenende said on Thursday that the EU must not 'change the rules of the game' for Turkey and must be fair in granting Turkey a date for accession negotiations. Speaking before a meeting with PM Erdogan on the crucial preparatory talks before the upcoming EU summit, Balkenende said there are still concerns about Turkey's implementation of EU law, freedom of religion, and the free movement of the Turkish labor force. Balkenende added that the aim of the talks with Turkey is full membership. PM Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey is expecting a clear date for the start of negotiations. Ankara is closely monitoring countries which are cool to its EU membership bid in an effort to ensure that a 'flawless' draft emerges at the summit. The draft still contains provisions to which Turkey has objected, including the requirement to recognize Cyprus, the mention of torture, and other conditions that Ankara views as more restrictive than those imposed on other candidate countries. French FM Barnier said he expects accession talks with Turkey to begin in late 2005 or early 2006. Former EU enlargement commissioner Guenter Verheugen wrote an op-ed in the conservative/opinion maker "Zaman" arguing that Turkey needs Europe during its modernization process and Europe needs Turkey as a trusted partner to deal with international problems.

FM Gul in Brussels for NATO meeting: FM Abdullah Gul traveled to Brussels to attend a meeting of NATO foreign ministers. Gul met with Olli Rehn, the European Union commissioner for enlargement, to whom Gul voiced Ankara's expectations for the December 16-17 EU summit. Speaking to the press, Gul said the EU's draft statement on Turkey still contained some points that Ankara found unacceptable. Asked about Cyprus, Gul said that without a settlement on the island, Ankara's recognition of Nicosia is out of the question. Gul also had a chance to discuss with Secretary Powell the recent 'strain' in US-Turkish relations.

Gen. Brooks slams international media for distortion in Iraq reporting: Speaking at a meeting organized by the American

Enterprise Institute (AEI), a conservative US think-tank in Washington, US Land Forces public affairs chief General Vincent Brooks criticized the way the war in Iraq is being reported by international media. General Brooks said that international media outlets have created a false image depicting Americans' alleged disrespect for mosques in Fallujah. "Some 250 mosques have been taken under protection by US forces in the region," he said. "This fact should also be highlighted by the international media," Brooks said. General Brooks stressed that the US cannot remain silent in the face of a deliberate disinformation campaign. Last week, US officials accused Turkish media of "irresponsible" reporting on Iraq at a State Department briefing for Turkish journalists in Washington, "Yeni Safak" notes.

Annan may initiate new Cyprus effort: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked the UN to approve a \$570,000 fund to assign a new UN special Cyprus representative to replace Alvaro de Soto, Turkish papers report. The reports evaluate Annan's request as an indication that he intends to launch a new peace initiative on the divided island in 2005.

Turkey's Kurds request more rights from Ankara: Turkish papers report an advertisement placed in the "International Herald Tribune" by former DEP lawmaker Leyla Zana and her colleagues, in which the Kurdish activists call on Turkey to grant its Kurds exactly the same rights that Ankara is demanding for Turkish Cypriots. A new and democratic constitution should be hammered out in Turkey, the Kurds said. Papers regard the advertisement as a call for autonomy for Turkey's Kurds, and imply that Zana has engaged in "treason" given the timing of the announcement on the eve of the EU summit. The reports claim that the Kurds' action strengthens the hands of those in Europe who oppose Turkey's accession to the EU.

Armenian FM on ties with Turkey: Armenia's foreign minister Vardan Oskanyan told Reuters that the European Union should press Turkey "aggressively" to reopen its border with Armenia. Oskanyan said that recognition of the Armenian "genocide" was still high on Yerevan's foreign policy agenda: "In the event of Turkey's EU membership, we hope there will be a much freer discourse in Turkey on this issue, which may lead eventually to recognition of the Armenian genocide." Oskanyan noted that if Turkey opens the border, it would facilitate trade and boost the economy in Turkey's poor eastern regions as well as in Armenia. He added that Armenia had lost an estimated \$1 billion in trade over the last 10 to 15 years because of the border closure, and urged the EU to push for its reopening.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

##### Turkey's EU Prospects

###### "The EU And The Alternatives"

Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative-mass appeal "Turkiye" (12/10): "In one week's time we will learn about the contents of the EU report that will directly affect Turkey's future. Even if the announcement contains troublesome conditions, Turkey should keep calm. The reforms that have been applied so far have strengthened our democracy. We should continue in this direction. Even if we are angry by the EU decision, we shouldn't give up on Europe, because we are Europeans as well. Turkey will never feed an atmosphere of hatred against Europe. We should be very careful in our relations with the US as well. We should not insult our strategic ally with meaningless statements. We should criticize the US only if it is necessary to defend Turkey's interests, and even then it should be done in a decent and responsible manner. Turkey suffers under the weight of many years of mistakes. We don't have the patience for more mistakes, so we need to define our direction as clearly and perfectly as we can."

###### "Let Us Do The Best We Can"

Oktay Eksi observed in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (12/10): "France has been following a rather underhanded policy toward Turkey for some time. France applies part of this dirty policy itself and forces the EU term president Holland to apply the other half. Europe's -- or more correctly, France's -- discriminating behavior toward Turkey in the name of EU will not last for long. This is just a cyclical position. It is well known that France has prejudice feelings against Turkey. The only way to beat this prejudice is to introduce the modern, democratic, and secular Turkey to the world. But if you try to find out who is doing what on this issue, you cannot find an answer. If the State Promotion Fund is not used effectively in this process, when will it ever be? In other words, if we have such an institution, and if this institution fails to do its job effectively, do you believe that efforts spent in this direction will ever be successful? On December 17, the EU will decide one way or the other, but regardless of that outcome we need to be more successful in presenting the real

Turkey to the world."

"Will Another February 28 Process Begin?"

Editor-in-Chief Ertugrul Ozkok wrote in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (12/10): I don't believe it is possible to say anything definite until December 17. But I do want to raise the question: do we need a 'B Plan' for December 18 if things go badly with the EU? In my view, the answer is no. Because if an unexpected result emerges on December 17, life will continue, we will still live in this country, our factories will continue to produce, people will still go to the movies. But there are two questions in all of our minds: First, will the economy take a downturn, with capital flight and reduced investment? Second, will democratization and the reform process continue? Let me write it more openly - will another February 28 process be launched? It will not. Those days are now in the past. Everyone in Turkey now understands the limits of legitimacy. Unless there is a big mistake, Turkey will continue on the civilized path it has taken over the past three years. So Turkey's 'B Plan' is to make more progress on its current path. If everyone keeps in mind their institutional roles, if the democratic process works through all of its institutions, and if the shouting and howling by marginal people and institutions is disregarded, there is no need for a 'B Plan.' Turkey will continue on this road.

EDELMAN